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After cultural revolution, Chinese Christianity grows

By Erich Bridges

BEIJING, China (BP) — Beijing Christian Church offers two forms of baptism and serves communion five different ways.

Pastor Kan Xueqing smiles when asked if the differing traditions clash. "During the Cultural Revolution, when the Gang of Four was in control, we had a very, very difficult time," Kan reflects. "In those days we did not know what the next day would bring. We didn't even know what the next 10 minutes would bring. The only thing a Christian could do was turn to God in prayer. So when the first church reopened after this, nobody asked what denomination it was. All we thought was, 'My church has reopened. I'm going to worship God.'"

Allowed to worship publicly since 1979, the Christian church, like Chinese society, is in transition: Transition from the guidance of the aging faithful, converted during the missionary era, to the believers of a new generation. Transition from denominationalism to union. Transition from the severe repression of the past to increasing religious freedom.

Inside the more than 4,000 Protestant churches (and tens of thousands of home worship meetings) now functioning in China, former Baptists worship beside former Methodists, Presbyterians, and Anglicans.

Many Chinese Christians don't like to talk about the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76. The memories bring pain. But the subject inevitably comes up in any serious discussion of the church's recent history. The greatest national tragedy of the postwar generation, the period saw radical leftists seize virtual control of the state. A reign of terror and near-anarchy followed during which the so-called Red Guards almost destroyed Chinese society.

Millions suffered. Many died. Intellectuals, artists, whole classes of people were abused. Among them were religious believers. The Red Guards saw the final eradication of religious "superstition" as one of their missions.

They closed and ransacked churches, humiliated believers, burned Bibles. But the church of Jesus Christ was not destroyed. Instead it took root in Chinese soil. Millions of new believers — no one knows just how many — embraced Christianity even at the height of persecution.

Purged by suffering, Christians have bloomed since churches were reopened. They also have won the grudging respect of their enemies and the admiration of much of Chinese society. Example: the China Christian

Council reports at least 7,700 Christians have been honored as model workers by their work units.

At Beijing Christian Church, Kan Xueqing says his greatest need is someone to "take part of my burden, take up the task." At 65, he is the youngest member of a pastoral staff toiling to meet the needs of more than 1,000 believers.

Biblical ignorance

Widespread biblical ignorance in the churches is another result of the dark years. With few teachers and more than 600 students, the 11 Protestant seminaries now functioning in China struggle to fill the leadership vacuum.

"We don't have time to do graduate work or research," says Qi Tingduo, the 75-year-old vice president of the seminary in Beijing. "We're trying to train workers and get them into the field as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, the China Christian Council works at national and local levels to encourage churches through pastoral work, Christian literature, and Bible publication. Since 1980, the council has printed more than 3.2 million Bibles in China.

An additional national initiative involving Christians is the 3-year-old Amity Foundation, designed to join Christians with other Chinese — and people or organizations from abroad — in service to China. The foundation has sponsored more than 50 foreign language teachers at 36 universities and institutions. The teachers have come from nine countries and 14 different church-related agencies, including Southern Baptists.

Cooperative Services International.

Another major Amity project: the new Amity Printing Press, which opened in December near Nanjing. It is printing Bibles, Christian literature, and other materials of service to Chinese society. Amity also operates a nutrition training project and has contributed to a children's hospital and a children's mental health center.

The Three-Self Patriotic Movement (indicating the Chinese church's ideals of self-control, self-support, self-propagation) represents Christians in dealings with the government at all levels. Because of its drive to organize, unify, and register churches, the organization often is accused by some critics of doing the opposite — of representing government interests.

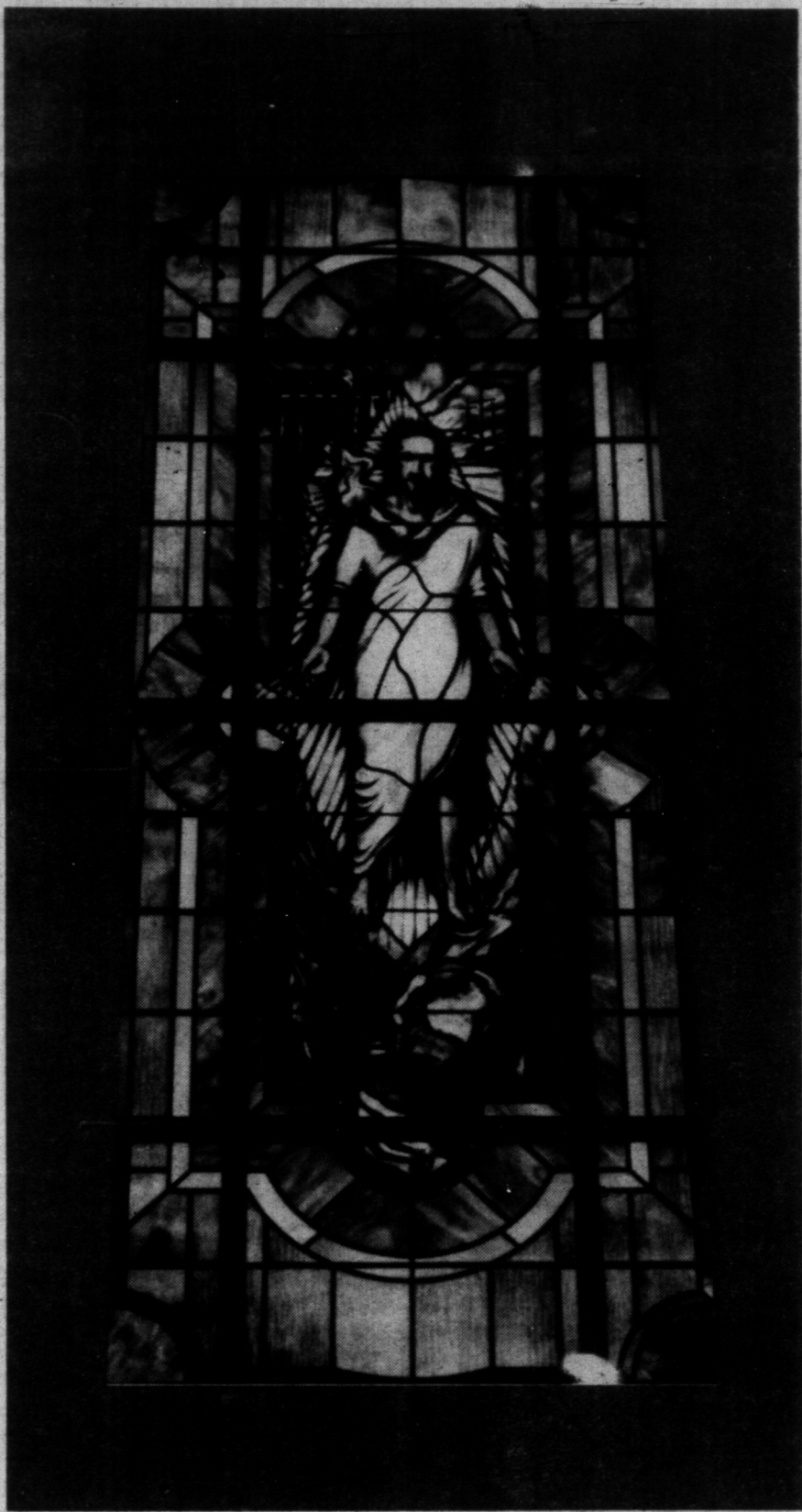
Reports persisted last year of arrests of "house church" believers in some areas, as well as official pressure on home meetings to register with church authorities or conform to strict guidelines for church operation.

From a national perspective, however, observers of religious freedom generally agree on several things.

First, public respect for the rights of religious believers has come a long way since the end of the Cultural Revolution.

Second, the government and Communist Party, while remaining adamantly atheist, have legally reaffirmed Chinese citizens' freedom of religion and apparently have acknowledged the futility of attempting to eradicate religion by repression.

Erich Bridges writes for the FMB.



Chandeliers capture colors of Corinth's ten new windows

The facilities of First Church, Corinth, are undergoing change. Outside, a new parking lot doubles the off-street parking. New roofing has been placed on the sanctuary. And the steeple (one of the tallest in the state) has been refurbished. Inside the sanctuary, a major face-lift has taken place. Interior designer Berle Smith from Jackson, and Mast Construction Company of Tupelo have given the sanctuary a completely new look with new carpet, new colors, new stained glass windows, reworked seating, and a remodeled pulpit area.

The new stained glass windows were designed specifically for First, Corinth, by Andrew C. Young of Pearl River Glass Studio, Jackson. Within each of the ten windows, the traditional beauty of stained glass combines with contemporary imagery to capture key moments and personalities of Old and New Testament history. The brilliant colors of the windows are complemented by light from three chandeliers, a color scheme of muted blues in walls and cushions, and hardwood hues in pulpit and pews.

"The present renovation is possible because of the vision of a former generation of First Baptist members. Their foresight led them to build a sanctuary 38 years ago that is still admired by all who visit," said a church member. Architects and designers praise the stately lines while contractors and craftsmen note the rock steady foundations have kept the building strong and viable. One designer said, "You would have to travel to the East Coast to see church buildings of similar architectural design and quality."

Dennis Smith, the pastor, and the congregation will share the beauty of the renovated sanctuary with the people of northeast Mississippi on May 29, at 1:30 p.m. in a service of rededication.



A Chinese seminary student bends over his examination paper. Christians in China lost the chance to prepare a whole generation of leaders during the religious repression of the Cultural Revolution. Now the 11 Protestant seminaries in China are trying hard to fill the leadership vacuum. (BP) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Associational Emphasis Week

Sometimes an almost forgotten entity in Southern Baptist life is the association. Most of the interest seems to focus on the state convention of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the association is there all along doing its job.

Sometimes we seem to get the idea that the action is in the state convention programs or the Southern Baptist missions efforts. And indeed it is. No more so, however, than in the association. In reality, the association is the glue that sort of holds the whole thing together.

May 16 to 22 is Associational Emphasis Week in the Southern Baptist Convention. It is sponsored by the Home Mission Board.

There are about 37,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention framework, and it is doubtful that all of them would be as active as they are in state convention and Southern Baptist Convention work if it were not for the associations' funneling of the designs and emphases for that work to the churches in the local association.

The association is the closest denominational entity to the churches. The director of associational missions knows well each of the pastors in his area. He knows where

the pastor's interests lie. He helps the pastor plan and execute programs and projects outside the church and even inside the church when he is needed.

The director of missions helps the church when the church is without a pastor. And he is sort of the pastors' pastor.

The missions work of the association is just as vital as is that of the state convention or the Southern Baptist Convention. The lost in the association area are just as lost as are those who are lost in Burkina Faso. The association helps the churches in banding together to reach those who are lost in its area.

The state convention's employed cadre cannot know those pastors nearly as well as the director of associational missions is able to know them. The establishment of the Southern Baptist Convention cannot know them all. The director of missions knows them. He works with them. He aches with them. He rejoices with them. He is there on the scene to share their triumphs and tragedies. He is a part of them.

When I was four years of age, my father entered the ministry. The next four years were spent in college; but

from the time I was eight I became an interested Southern Baptist watcher. I watched my father deal with situations as they arose. He became a military chaplain during World War II; and, in many ways, because of the unusual circumstances, he considered this one of the most vital aspects of his ministry.

After the war, however, he became a director of association missions. He was in this work, in the same association, for 22 years until his retirement. Actually, that association had two staff members, for my mother was as involved as was my father.

Though I never lived in their home during this period, I watched with interest what was going on. I developed a keen interest in association work. I developed an intense appreciation for the work of the association. I became aware of how important it is to operations in the Southern Baptist Convention.

There were associations before there were state conventions or a Southern Baptist Convention. Their importance has not lessened since they were first created in Philadelphia.

We need them, and we need to support them.

100 years for WMU

This week marks a highly significant birthday among Southern Baptists. It is the 100th anniversary of the Woman's Missionary Union, an organization that has meant more to the efforts of Southern Baptists in their mission of witnessing to the world than can ever be measured.

Mississippi Baptists can be proud of what has been accomplished by the Woman's Missionary Union through the years; and they can be proud that the present executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union is a native of Mississippi. She is Carolyn Weatherford of House.

Woman's Missionary Union is celebrating its 100th birthday this week in Richmond, Va., and the Baptist Record's Anne McWilliams is there to be a part of the celebration and to observe it in progress.

For these 100 years, the WMU has had untold impact on our missions efforts. The Southern Baptist Convention, after all, was organized as a mission operation; and the WMU has been in the forefront of that endeavor for 100 of the convention's 143 years.

The Woman's Missionary Union is a missions education agency. It has a detailed and sophisticated program for presenting missions to Southern Baptists, particularly the women, young women, and girls. It is a friend of missions efforts in any way that it feels would be beneficial; and this is

particularly so in the three major offerings that are a part of Southern Baptists' calendars every year. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is for foreign missions. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is for home missions. And each state has an offering for state missions. In Mississippi it is the Margaret Lackey Offering.

Southern Baptists must be grateful for the Woman's Missionary Union. It has helped us do what we are doing in unmeasured ways, and it keeps us informed as to what it is we are supposed to be doing.

Congratulations to the Woman's

Missionary Union for 100 years of dedicated and significant service to the cause of missions around the world, and our thanks to that organization for helping us to keep missions in the forefront of our endeavors.

"The work of the association is critical to the future and effectiveness of missions in the United States. Everything the Home Mission Board does, we do in some association. Most of what we do, we do best in partnership with the association." — Larry Lewis

Report encourages schools to engage in moral education

WASHINGTON (BP) — American public schools should be more involved in moral education, according to a report released by a national organization that focuses on curriculum development, supervision and instructional procedures.

In its report, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development called on educators to

strengthen the moral education presented to public school students.

The report notes mounting public concern about a substantial long-term increase in adolescent emotional problems, including rising rates of teenage homicide, suicide and out-of-wedlock births. Public opinion polls, according to the report, also indicate a vast majority of Americans favor the teaching of morals and moral



Guest opinion . . . Baptist beliefs: The true temple

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19).

When word reached "the Jews" (Jewish religious leaders) about Jesus' cleansing of the temple, they challenged his authority to do so (John 2:18). Apart from themselves they held that only a prophet, the Messiah, or God himself had such authority. They did not recognize Jesus as a prophet (John 7:52), certainly not the Messiah or God. So they demanded a "sign" (miracle) from him to prove his authority.

Jesus' sign was that if they would destroy "this temple" he would raise it in three days. "Temple" renders naos, sometimes used of the entire

temple area (hieros) but more specifically of the Holy of Holies where God was said to dwell in mercy with his people. Jesus intended the latter meaning; the Jews thought of the former.

Actually the temple area had been 46 years in building (v. 20; 20-19 B.C.-A.D. 27). The entire area was not finished until A.D. 64, six years before it was destroyed by the Romans. So to the Jews, Jesus' claim was preposterous. Even Jesus' disciples did not understand Jesus' meaning at the time (v. 22).

But Jesus spoke of the "temple of his body" (v. 21). The Jews did destroy that temple. Jesus did rise from the dead in three days. It was only then that the disciples recalled Jesus' words. Jesus gave the Sanhedrin (Jews) the "sign" they demanded. But they sought to deny it through a lie (Matthew 28:12-15). If one will not to believe, even God's greatest "sign" will not convince him.

This statement of Jesus was a definite claim to deity, even at this early stage in his ministry. For 33 years God dwelt among men in a temple of flesh and blood — and he did so in order to extend his greatest offer of mercy to all people. Truly, Jesus was the true Temple of God. For "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

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President Reagan won't make convention date

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP) — President Ronald Reagan will not address the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio, Texas, June 16 because of a schedule conflict, announced Tom Elliff, chairman of the SBC Order of Business Committee.

The White House informed SBC President Adrian P. Rogers that Reagan could not accept the invitation to speak because he will be on a trip to Canada at that time, said Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, here.

The communication from Reagan's office came several days before reports circulated that Reagan allegedly consults astrology charts

and advisers before making decisions, Elliff told Baptist Press.

"Obviously any Southern Baptist would be gravely concerned over the involvement of any person in astrology," Elliff said. "I am personally disappointed that the president would turn to any source other than the Lord God himself."

The Order of Business Committee does not need to consider rescinding Reagan's invitation to address the convention, since the invitation has been declined, Elliff said.

Reagan had been invited to speak at noon June 16, the final day of the SBC annual meeting. The Thursday morning session will adjourn at 11:50 a.m., Elliff said.

"Distractions" featured in Sunday School lesson

By Gary L. Maze

How much of last Sunday's sermon do you remember? Unless one takes and reviews notes, educators estimate that one forgets 90-95 percent of all that one hears within 72 hours. The challenge of making youth Sunday School a significant learning experience requires much more than lecture. The junior high Sunday School Department of Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson has accepted the challenge.

A recent example of this commitment is the preparation of the Life and Work Lesson, "Distracted Faith," to be taught on Feb. 21. During a weekly workers meeting, the department leadership looked to the project approach for planning the upcoming large group time. The recommendation there was to display pictures of distractions in a young person's life. This gallery of pictures and posters culled from school publications, national magazines, newspapers, and personal mementoes were to provide visual aids for students to identify obstructions to spiritual growth.

Under the leadership of department director, Mary Ann Mullins, the suggested activity blossomed into a walking tour of common experiences. The goal was to go directly to the appropriate classroom to grow in Christ without being side-tracked at one of the stations. These stations included high school and college students pleading for the young students' time and attention. Not only were there displays representing obviously poor choices, but also neutral areas such as clothing, shopping, sports, and extra curricular activities.

Among the good and bad distractions were representations of alcohol usage, television obsession, pornography, gospel music, and a picture of Jesus praying with a telephone below and a sign asking, "Who do you talk to?"

Teacher Vickie Prather said, "The decision was not whether you would go that way, but what you would do with the choices you face along the way."

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The Second Front Page

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WMU, SBC Centennial reached on "grand scale"

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will end a year-long celebration of its 100 years as an organization May 13-14 in Richmond, Va., with a grand-scale "Centennial Celebration."

More than 11,000 people from 47 states and 25 countries are expected to participate in the festivities.

The program will focus on the 1987-88 WMU watchword, "A Century to Celebrate, A Future to Fulfill," and scripture, "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:7-8)."

Four general sessions will be held in the Richmond Coliseum. The themes of the sessions, slated for Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening, are: "Celebrate God's Call," "Celebrate God's Creation," "Celebrate God's Community" and "Celebrate God's Commission."

A highlight in the general sessions will be a joint commissioning service for home and foreign missionaries, believed to be the first joint commissioning service in Southern Baptist history. There will be 134 home missionaries and 31 foreign missionaries commissioned.

Handbell choirs, orchestras, soloists, and the Foreign Mission Board Staff Chorus will be among

those presenting special music.

Dramatic moments in WMU history will be performed by drama groups and individuals.

Processionals, Olympic Games opening-ceremony style, will begin each of the four general sessions. The indoor parades will include bands, horse-drawn buggies carrying costumed women representing past WMU leaders, costumed biblical characters, U.S. and foreign flags,

banners, and convertibles carrying Southern Baptist agency executives.

Featured speakers during the general sessions will include home and foreign missionaries, former WMU national leaders such as Helen Fling and Alma Hunt, and current Southern Baptist Convention agency executives such as Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis and Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks.

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Brotherhood Commission's Godfrey, wife found dead

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Norman Godfrey, 52, Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission first vice president, and his wife, Nancy, 53, were found dead at their home in Memphis, Tenn., May 5.

Lt. Don Hollie, a Memphis police investigating officer, said: "Both were found in bed apparently dead of gunshot wounds. Each was shot one time with a rifle found on the floor by the bed. There was no apparent forced entry."

Preliminary investigations indicate Mrs. Godfrey, who had psychiatric problems, shot her husband while he slept, then took her own life, police

said. A final medical examiner's report is pending.

The Godfreys were discovered by Commission President James H. Smith and their son Richard when Godfrey failed to report to work.

Godfrey, a 27-year employee of the Brotherhood Commission, liked to say he was a product of Southern Baptist missions. He made a profession of faith in Christ and was baptized in the First Baptist Church of Ajo, Ariz., while it was still a mission congregation.

He was educated at Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, Ariz., and

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William Carey Trustees approve further changes

By Tim Nicholas

William Carey College trustees met last Friday for more than five hours approving a package of further changes in the administration of the Baptist school.

The first hour was with the trustee executive committee meeting behind closed doors, the second two hours included development board members and the Baptist Record, the final two hours were with the whole trustee board meeting behind closed doors, and for a time in what they called executive sessions excluding even President Ralph Noonkester.

Noonkester has for several months been presenting portions of a reorganization plan which would tighten financial belts to improve cash flow.

In earlier meetings, trustees approved Noonkester's proposals to demote two of the four vice presidents and a tuition hike from \$99 to \$115 per semester.

W.J. Ward, vice president for

business affairs, was reassigned as an instructor in the School of Business. Milton Wheeler, vice president of student development, was reassigned as dean of student development and professor of history. J.V. McCrory remained vice president for academic affairs, and Hugh Dickens, who was vice president for development, became administrative vice president and director of the graduate program in education. As of February, Ward was not on the list of faculty to receive contracts for 1988-89, however, he had signed a contract prior to the meeting last week.

These moves, according to Noonkester, placed all academic and all non-academic affairs under control of one person each.

In last week's meeting, trustees further demoted Wheeler from dean of students to professor of history and director of travel and study abroad and gave the deanship to Steve Smith,

(Continued on page 9)



Robert Mullins, right, "entices" Miriam Shipp and Shannon Klye into a bad choice along the way to Sunday School at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, for a special object lesson.

Nominators release list to be presented at SBC

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — The 1988 report of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations has been released by chairman Joseph T. Knott III of Raleigh, N.C.

The Committee on Nominations, formerly known as the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, nominates trustees to serve on the 24 entities related to the Southern Baptist Convention, including the Executive Committee, four major boards, commissions, seminaries, standing committees, and organizations such as the Baptist World Alliance and North American Baptist Fellowship.

Under convention bylaws, the report must be released through Baptist Press at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 14-16, 1988, in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

The report — which includes 239 nominations and renominations — must be presented to messengers at the annual meeting in order for the nominees to be elected to the boards of the various entities of the convention.

The committee includes a layperson and a member who is clergy or denominationally-related from 33 states or regional conventions qualified for representation on the various committees and boards of the convention.

This year's committee includes representatives from six states not previously represented: Alaska, Nevada, New England, New York, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, and Utah-Idaho. The representation was granted in Bylaw 32, revised in 1987, and allowing a three-tiered system of representation in the convention.

At 15,000 members, a state convention is entitled to representation on the SBC Executive Committee, commit-

tee on committees and nominating committee. At 20,000 members, the convention is represented on the Foreign and Home missions boards and the Sunday School board. At 25,000 members, it is entitled to full representation.

Knott, an attorney who formerly was an assistant U.S. attorney in Raleigh, declined to discuss the inner workings of the committee, or specifics of the appointments. He defended the decision of the committee to meet March 17-18 in executive session.

"Suggestions we should have met in open session are ridiculous," he said, adding it would have been very difficult to carry on the work of the committee, especially "when we were talking about people's personal lives."

He declined to respond to criticisms voiced by three members of the nominating committee who have charged the committee violated the Peace Committee, was orchestrated and concentrated on denominational politics more than Jesus Christ.

Three members — a pastor, a layman and an evangelist — all have spoken out publicly about the work of the committee: Jimmy Towers, pastor of Crossroads Church in San Antonio, Texas; Raymond Boswell, an insurance executive from Shreveport, La.; and James Ponder, a Jacksonville, Fla., evangelist.

Towers said nominations he made were rejected because of SBC politics.

He said members were more concerned about whether nominees were "committed to the changes" and "the cause" in convention politics than whether they were dedicated to "Christ, missions, and evangelism."

Boswell charged the nominations committee violated the SBC peace process by politicizing the selections. Decisions, he said were "not whether you believe the whole Bible and

whether you believe in the inspiration of Scripture. The issue rests on whether or not you have been in the struggle with them since 1979."

Boswell also said conservative leaders were involved in the nominating process and told of how committee members mentioned contacting conservative leaders, who are not on the committee, about their recommendations.

Ponder said the nominees he and his fellow Florida committee member had agreed upon were "unilaterally" rejected because the first slate was not acceptable to a Florida conservative leader.

Knott declined to respond, saying: "I am not going to talk about that. I have no hard feelings about it. Everybody has to be led by the (Holy) Spirit."

Earlier, Knott said convention politics were not part of the consideration, because theology, not politics, was the standard for committee nominations. "I don't believe there has been political involvement. I believe the whole controversy has been theological and not political . . . The idea of a political struggle — I disagree with the whole concept."

Knott said he saw his involvement as "purely service to the Lord. Half of the people in the committee were laypeople and for us there is no career enhancement, no political payoff. I do what I do to serve the Lord; there is no reward in it."

Knott declined to comment on much of the work of the committee, saying it had adopted a policy it would not talk about its processes.

He did say all of the persons eligible for renomination to a second term had been renominated except one trustee.

The report indicates Frank Jordan of National City, Calif., was eligible for a second five-year term on the

board at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., was eligible but was replaced.

Knott declined to say why, except to note it was "done by the state representatives."

Other sources on the committee, however, said Norman was not renominated because he had been in dispute with the chairman of Southeastern's trustees, Robert D. Crowley of Rockhill, Md. Specifics were not available.

"We nominated everybody else who was eligible for renomination," Knott said, "even people who are theologically different from the main thrust of the convention. If they were eligible, they were renominated."

Knott also declined to comment on criticism of an "executive committee" he appointed prior to the March meeting. Boswell said the Knott-appointed subcommittee established operating procedures with disregard for previously established functions and policies and screened nominees to determine their theological and political orthodoxy.

Knott praised the nine-member committee for its work in the nominations process. "I couldn't have done it without them," he said. "I have a law practice to run." I named them almost immediately after the (St. Louis) convention. Of course, it didn't become official until we met and the whole committee elected them."

Knott said he sought geographical balance in naming the group, as well as appointing women, pastors, and laypeople to it.

"I divided up the states and gave each member four or five to be in touch with. I told the committee members they (the executive committee) were their contacts. I told the executive committee what to look for in the nominations. We wanted women and minorities. We wanted churches

with good Cooperative Program giving and baptisms. We wanted to avoid doubling up (appointing more than one person from a church)."

The subcommittee will meet in San Antonio prior to the 1988 annual meeting to make nominations for vacancies still left in the report.

Members of the subcommittee are Knott; vice chairman Gerald Davidson, Arnold, Mo.; William Hann, Orange, Calif.; Benny Thompson, Monroe, La.; Gary Brink, Romeo, Mich.; Sarah Maddox, Memphis, Tenn.; Monte Lawless, Jasper, Texas; Jane Judy, Luray, Va.; and William Warren, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Dan Martin is Baptist Press News editor.

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Exec. Committee, four boards nominated

NASHVILLE (BP) — Members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee and four boards — Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, and Annuity Board — have been nominated by the SBC Committee on Nominations.

Representation is in staggered terms to preserve the balance and rotation system.

In order to serve, the nominees must be elected by messengers to the 1988 annual meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (76 members, including six new representatives):

24 nominations considered; 15 new members, 9 renominations.

Two of the nominees from new conventions will have terms expiring in 1989. Nominated from New England is James C. Wideman, pastor of Screven Memorial church, Portsmouth, N.H. Nominated from New York is David T. Button, a broadcast executive and member of Calvary church, Canton.

Two of the nominees will have terms expiring in 1990. Nominated from Alaska is Judson D. Owen, pastor of First church, Palmer, and president of the Alaska Baptist Convention. Nominated from Utah-Idaho is W. Andrew Hornbaker Sr., pastor of Holladay church, Salt Lake City.

Pennsylvania-South Jersey received a nominee with a term to expire in 1991, Danny M. Crow, pastor of Pittsburgh church, Pittsburgh.

Nevada received a nominee with a term to expire in 1992, David C. Brown, pastor of Desert Hills church, Las Vegas.

Nominees, with terms to expire in 1992, replacing members ineligible for renomination because they have served the allowed two terms, include: Mrs. G. Wayne (Joy) Dorsett, a registered physical therapist and member of Clayton church, Clayton, Ala., replacing Carolyn Miller of Huntsville; Walter S. Tomme Jr., pastor of Capitol Hill Metropolitan church, Washington, replacing Alvin O. West of Washington;

Mrs. Al (Gayden) Jones, a homemaker and member of First church, Baton Rouge, La., replacing John Sullivan of Shreveport; R. Kenny Spain, pastor of Evergreen church, Cadillac, Mich., replacing Roger Brink of Warren; Russell Bush Jr., a retired dentist and pastor of Main Street church, Hattiesburg, Miss., replacing Tommy King of Columbia;

Jerry D. Brown, a truckstop operator and member of Emmanuel Southern church, Edmond, Okla., replacing Dan S. Hobbs of Norman; Forrest M. Whittington, a city engineer and member of Immanuel church, Florence, S.C., replacing John C. Cothran of Greenville; and T.C. Pinckney, a retired Air Force brigadier general and member of Plymouth Haven church, Alexandria, Va., replacing James E. Baucom of Martinsville.

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee

will name a replacement to fill the unexpired term — to expire in 1990 — of Thomas A. Hinson who moved from West Memphis, Ark.

Nominated to second terms are Jerry A. Passmore, Pensacola, Fla.; John T. Tippet Jr., Savannah, Ga.; David T. Gray, Radcliff, Ky.; Terry L. Davis, Ocean City, Md.; Wallace E. Jones, Bridgton, Mo.; Julian M. Motley, Durham, N.C.; Doyle J. Collins, Roseburg, Ore.; Kenneth L. Mahanes, Dayton, Ohio; and Joe B. Warwick, Knoxville, Tenn.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD (89 members, including 4 new state representatives): 28 nominations considered, 19 new members, 9 renominations.

Pennsylvania-South Jersey's nominee, with a term to end in 1989, is Mrs. Ray (Karol) Wise, a pastor's wife and member of Elk church, St. Mary's, Pa. Nevada's nominee — with a term to end in 1990 — is Hoyt A. Savage, pastor of Foothills mission of First Southern church, Las Vegas.

Alaska's nominee — with a term to expire in 1991 — is Rodney Gene Duncan, a public school teacher and member of Cross Roads church, North Pole. New York's nominee — with a term to expire in 1992 — is Roger W. Knapton, pastor of Lincoln Avenue church, Endicott.

Nominees, with terms to expire in 1992, replacing members ineligible for renomination include: Miss Mary Hunter, assistant director of admissions at Auburn University and member of Lakeview church, Auburn, Ala., replacing Harrell

R. Cushing of Gadsden; Alan J. Thompson, pastor of Valley Heights church, Phoenix, Ariz., replacing Nannie Lou Crofts of Phoenix;

Leon Hyatt Jr., church extension director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and member of First church, Pineville, replacing W.N. Prather Sr. of Eunice; Terry L. Williams, pastor of Meadowview church, Starkville, Miss., replacing W.W. Walley of Waynesboro; Paul Lewis Brooks, pastor of First church, Raytown, Mo., replacing Jim E. Jeffries of Springfield;

Ronell L. Owensby, pastor of First church, Cowpens, S.C., replacing Jim Carpenter of Seneca; Jack C. Parrott, pastor of Black Oak Heights church, Knoxville, Tenn., replacing Carroll C. Owen of Nashville; Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College and associate pastor of First church, Dallas, replacing Robert E. Smith of Weslaco, Texas; and Mrs. Clifford W. (Phyllis A.) Randall, a homemaker and member of Blacksburg church, Blacksburg, Va., replacing Martha Rhodes of Grafton.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1989 is Mark R. Patton, pastor of First Southern church, Topeka, Kan., replacing Harold E. Hallock of Lincoln, who resigned.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1992 is Paul Steven Hardy, pastor of Holly Hill church, Burlington, N.C., replacing Mrs. James F. Dalton, of Asheville, who died.

(Continued on page 5)

Thursday, May 12, 1988

Clower, Burkes, Holland to receive "Distractions" featured honors from Mississippi College

(Continued from page 3)

CLINTON — Jerry Clower of Yazoo City, lay leader of the Southern Baptist Convention, humorist and author,



will be the featured speaker at the Mississippi College commencement program on Saturday, May 14, closing out the 162nd academic session at the institution.

In addition to delivering the commencement address, Clower will also be awarded the honorary doctor of letters degree by the college. Commencement is set to begin at 2 p.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus with degrees going to 557 individuals. It is the largest graduating class in the history of the college.

Receiving honorary degrees along with Clower will be Major General Wayne O. Burkes of Clinton, Baptist pastor, civic leader, state senator, military officer, and businessman;



Burkes



Holland

and Charles Z. Holland of Clinton, retired Baptist minister, businessman, and still active in community and church activities. Burkes will receive the doctor of laws degrees, while Holland will be awarded the doctor of divinity.

Awarding the diplomas will be Lewis Nobles, president of the College. Of the 557 degree recipients, 353 will receive undergraduate degrees, 86 graduate degrees, eight the education specialist degree, and 110 the doctor of jurisprudence degree from the School of Law.

A native of Amite County, Miss., Clower is a member of the Grand Ole Opry and has made numerous appearances on top television and radio shows. He is a leading album seller for MCA Records, and has written three books — *Ain't God Good*, *Let the Hammer Down*, and *Life Everlaugher*.

Clower is a graduate of Southwest Mississippi Junior College and Mississippi State University. He is a member of the deacon council at the First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, and is an active lay preacher.

Burkes, a native of Philadelphia, Miss., was graduated from Arlington High School. He earned the bachelor of arts degree and the master of education degree from Mississippi College. He also holds the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Currently Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Mississippi Air National Guard, Burkes began his military career in 1951. Active in community and political affairs, he is a member

of the Mississippi State Senate representing District 29.

An ordained Baptist minister, Burkes has served as pastor of the Bolton Baptist Church for the past 21 years. He served as moderator of the Hinds-Madison Baptist Association.

Holland, a native of Vossburg in Clarke County, Miss., was graduated from high school in Greene County and in 1924 entered Pearl River Junior College in Poplarville where he served as president of his class. He transferred to Mississippi College and earned the bachelor of arts degree in history in 1929.

After receiving his baccalaureate degree, Holland served for two years as principal of Mantee High School before entering Southern Seminary to prepare for the ministry. He earned the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist College.

A past president of Clarke College, Holland served as pastor of First Church, Newton, for three years before joining the Mississippi Baptist Convention as director of promotions. He later returned to the pastorate, serving nine years as pastor of the First Church, Canton, followed by 19 years as pastor of First Church, Jonesboro, Ark.

Holland is a past president of the Arkansas Baptist Convention. He was a member of the committee that wrote *The Baptist Faith and Message* for the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963.

Agency nominations announced

(Continued from page 4)

Local members nominated to four-year terms replacing members ineligible for renomination include: Gary M. Burden, pastor of Deer Park church, Newport News, Va., replacing Wayne E. Varner of Lynchburg; Mrs. Al (Karen C.) Gilbert, a pastor's wife and member of Knollwood church, Burke, Va., replacing Catherine Bradley of Richmond; and George Hamm, a mortgage banker and member of Grove Avenue church, Saint Stevens Church, Va., replacing Meriwether W. Buckalew of Falls Church.

Nominated as a local member to a term to expire in 1990 is Mrs. Harvey L. (Eloise) Bryant, a homemaker and member of Bethany church, Portsmouth, Va., replacing Dee Pickens Bryan of Bluefield, Va., who moved.

Nominated to second terms are John H. Thomas, Daphne, Ala.; Bryan W. Judge Jr., Kissimmee, Fla.; Harriet Black Gilbert, Brunswick, Ga.; E. Harmon Moore, Indianapolis; William L. Hancock, Louisville, Ky.; Rod H. Masteller, Oklahoma City; Paul E. Martin, Houston; and Lester L. Hall, Beckley, W.Va.

Nominated to a second term as a local member is M. Hunter Riggins, Poquoson, Va.

HOME MISSION BOARD (89 members, including four new state representatives): 27 nominations considered, 15 new members, 12 renominations. New York's nominee, with a term to expire in 1989, is Jon F. Meek Jr., pastor of Calvary church, Aberdeen, N.J. Pennsylvania-South Jersey's nominee, with a term to expire in 1991, is James E. Ward, pastor of Temple church, York, Pa.

Two states receive new members with terms to expire in 1992. Nominee from Alaska is Marlin L. Starnes, pastor of First church, Delta Junction. Nominee from Nevada is David Doyel, pastor of Twin Lakes church, Las Vegas.

Nominees with terms to expire in 1992, replacing members ineligible for reappointment include: Edwin J. Hayes, pastor of First church, Cullman, Ala., replacing Cathleen E. Lewis of Montgomery; Everett Geis Sr., pastor of First church, Delhi, La., replacing Kenneth L. Fournet of St. Martinville; Gene F. Phillips, a seed company president and member of First church, Kahoka, Mo., replacing Wanda Haworth of Centertown; and Wendell R. Estep, pastor of First church, Columbia, S.C., replacing P. Edward Rickenbaker of Belton.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1989 is Michael R. Grebenik, pastor of First church of Black Forest, Colorado Springs, Colo., replacing Dave Bennett of Durango, who moved.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1990 is Mrs. Wayne (Elizabeth) Hostetter, a college piano teacher and member of Lakes church, Tempe, Ariz., replacing Beth McGhee, of Tucson, who died.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1991 is Marvin L. Capehart, pastor of First Alameda church,

Albuquerque, N.M., replacing Robert H. Lacy of Hobbes, who moved.

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee, when it meets in San Antonio prior to the annual meeting, will nominate replacements for two HMB trustees: Charles L. Chaney of Bolivar, Mo., whose term expires in 1991, resigned to accept a position with the HMB; and W.T. Gaines of San Jose, Calif., declined to accept a second term.

The subcommittee also will nominate a replacement for Lawanna McIver, Dallas, who is ineligible for renomination.

Local members nominated for full four-year terms replacing members ineligible for renomination include: Gene T. Bowman, director of missions and member of Teamon church, Griffin, Ga., replacing D.F. Norman of Stone Mountain; Ronald Gaynor, pastor of First church, Tucker, Ga., replacing James C. Strickland Jr. of Cartersville; and William O. Priester, pastor of Flat Creek church, Fayetteville, Ga., replacing Frank Lowndes of Atlanta.

Nominated for second terms are Joe Bob Mizzell, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Johnny Jackson, Little Rock, Ark.; J. Don Aderhold, Decatur, Ga.; Rufus Reginald Joiner, Albany, Ga.; Claude A. Hampleman, DuQuoin, Ill.; Wendell Romans, Lexington, Ky.; Thomas M. Freeman, Dunn, N.C.; William H. Delaney, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Albert E. Simms, Richmond, Va.; Alleen Wheelless, Springfield, Va., and D. Wade Armstrong, Ceredo, W.Va.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD (89 members, including four new state representatives): 25 nominations considered, 16 new members, 9 renominations.

Alaska's nominee, with a term to expire in 1989, is Edward E. Wolfe, pastor of First church, Soldotna. Pennsylvania-South Jersey's nominee, with a term to expire in 1990, is Charles A. Wilson, a businessman and member of Emmanuel church, Cherry Hill, N.J.

Nevada's nominee with a term to expire in 1991, is J. Barry Campbell, pastor of South Reno church, Reno. New York's nominee, with a term to expire in 1992, is H. Ondra Black, pastor of Hope church, Flanders, N.J.

Nominees with terms to expire in 1992, replacing members ineligible for renomination, include: Mrs. Gene (Jane) Wiggins, a homemaker and member of Carolina church, Andalusia, Ala., replacing Frances Stevenson of Auburn; Daniel Strickland, pastor of Parkway church, Orlando, Fla., replacing Joe H. Courson of Fort Walton Beach; James W. Hume, a pharmacist and member of Highview church, Louisville, Ky., replacing David C. Jackson of Frankfort;

Mrs. Kenneth (Iris E.) White, a self-employed desktop publishing company owner and member of South Columbia church, Columbia, Md., replacing Charles W. Adams of Dover; Kirk Humphreys, a wholesale distributor and member of Cherokee

Hills church, Oklahoma City, replacing J. Thomas Terry of Shawnee; Richard Kellum, minister of education/outreach at Laurel church, Greenville, S.C., replacing Lloyd E. Batson of Pickens;

William David Henard III, pastor of First church, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., replacing Earl C. Davis of Memphis; Robert M. Cheek, retired pastor and member of First church, Jasper, Texas, replacing Thomas M. Chism of El Paso; R. Richard Kirgan, pastor of First church, Lindale, Texas, replacing Morrine George of Dallas; and Tommy J. Taylor, pastor of London Bridge church, Virginia Beach, Va., replacing William G. Hurt of Hampton.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1989 is Edward H. Peery Jr., pastor of Green Hills church, LaHabra, Calif., replacing Jeff S. Sanders of Canoga Park, who moved. Nominated to a term to expire in 1990 is Allen F. Harrod pastor of First church, Bellevue, Ky., replacing Raymond Eugene Lawrence of Mayfield, who moved.

The nominating committee subcommittee, when it meets in San Antonio, will nominate a replacement to fill the unexpired term — to expire in 1989 — of Richard E. Francis of Trussville, Ala., who died.

Nominated to second terms are Levan G. Parker, Birmingham, Ala.; Ronald G. Hanie, Stone Mountain, Ga.; T.W. Garrison Jr., Camdenton, Mo.; Gary W. Bearce, Springfield, Mo.; Joseph T. Knott III, Raleigh, N.C.; Frank L. Palmer, Oak Harbor, Wash.; and H. Edwin Young, Houston.

Local members nominated to second terms are Robert L. York, Nashville, Tenn., and Jerry D. Burden, Donelson, Tenn.

ANNUITY BOARD (49 members): 12 nominations considered, 4 new members, 8 renominations.

Nominees replacing members ineligible for renomination include: S.A. Adkins, a vocational evangelist and member of New Hebron church, New Hebron, Miss., replacing Beverly V. Tinnin of Meridian; Jack F. Coffey, pastor of New Hope church, Raleigh, N.C., replacing J. Edwin Hunter of Statesville; and Philip A. Bryant, a real estate developer and member of First Lakewood church, Tacoma, Wash., replacing Donald O. Davis of Portland, Ore. Richard C. Scott, dean of the Hankamer School of Business at Baylor University and member of Woodway First church, Waco, Texas, was nominated to fill the unexpired local term — to expire in 1989 — of W. Gordon Hobgood Jr. of Richardson, who resigned to take a position on the staff of the Annuity Board.

Nominated to second terms were Jack C. Carroll, Littleton, Colo.; Dallas E. Pulliam, Greenbelt, Md.; E. Lee Wyatt Jr., Millstadt, Ill.; Guy T. Williams, New Orleans; Carl B. Allen, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; B.J. Martin, Pasadena, Texas; and Robert B. Bass, Richmond, Va.

Nominated to a second term as a local member is Paul W. Powell, Tyler, Texas.

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CHILDREN'S PAGE



Many kites are for sale at the Phramane Grounds in Bangkok, Thailand, the big kite-flying center in the capital city. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

Do you like kites?

By Maxine Stewart

Kite flying is one of Thailand's oldest sports, dating back to more than 700 years ago. In Thailand, kite flying is today a sport demanding great skill. It is officially recognized by the Thai Sports Association.

On some kites, a piece of ribbon is attached which vibrates in the wind, producing a musical sound.

A popular kite in Thailand is the diamond-shaped fighting kite called the CHULA ('male' kite) and the PAKPAO ('female' kite) which became popular in the reign of King Chulalongkorn. This kite is about a foot square, fast, nimble, easy to make and cheap. With the string of the kite coated with ground glass and hardened glue, it is maneuvered so that its strings cuts the strings of other kites.

It is said a fighting kite flyer can be easily spotted by the tell-tale band-aids on his fingers, his sunburned cheeks, sunglasses, and the bamboo pole beside him in case he has to run after his own kite. We have a 'Charlie Brown' problem in Thailand — kite-eating trees!

During the reign of King Chulalongkorn (1868-1910) the kite competition was held at the Phramane Grounds (as it is today), an area more than 700 yards long (7

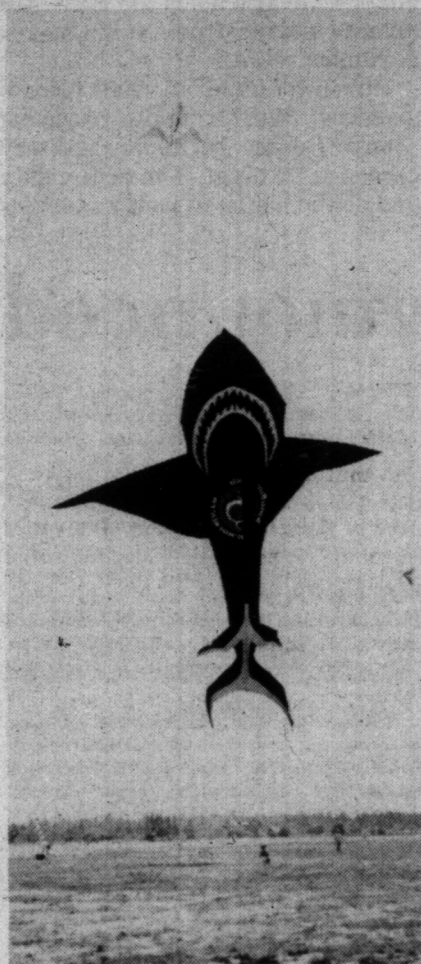
times as long as a football field!) and about 300 yards wide. The "LOM WAO" (kite winds) sweep freely across this area during the kite season of late February, March, and early April.

In 1987, Thailand hosted her first International Kite Festival. It appeared to be a great success with participants from 6 countries. Colorful kites of all shapes and sizes delighted a large crowd gathered at Jomtien Beach at Pattaya, just beyond the Baptist Christian Conference center on the Gulf of Thailand, with an excellent performance in the sky during the full three-day festival.

Thailand's cobra kite, which measured 520 meters long and a string of 699 meters long, is said to be the longest kite in the world.

As I walked through the Phramane Grounds in Bangkok, one kite-flying day, I wondered — out of all the thousands of people gathered there for the cool refreshing breeze and the entertainment — how many of them knew God — the Source of the wind, the One who could cause them to 'soar higher than a kite' in their hearts if they should come to know and accept him.

Maxine Stewart is a missionary in Thailand.



One of the kites at the International Kite Festival in Thailand gets off the ground. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)



A tree "eats a kite" at the Phramane Grounds in Bangkok, Thailand. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

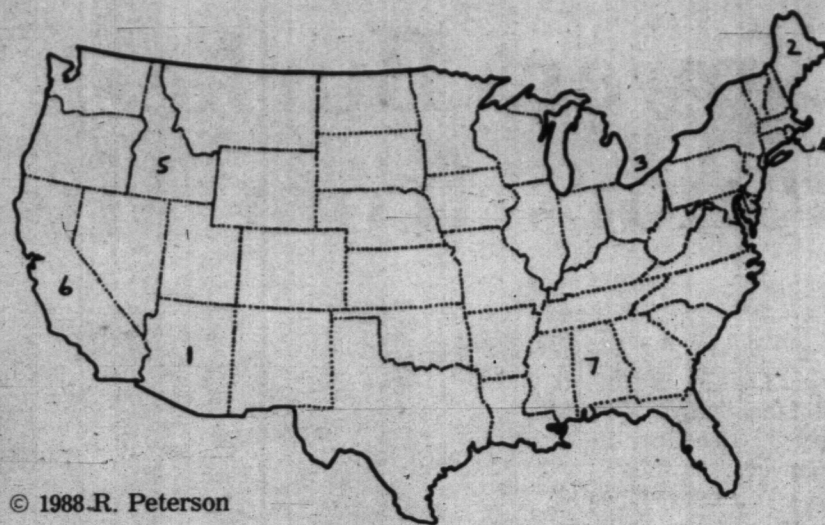
God will always love you

God will always love you, and I'll always try,
But you need to remember that I didn't die.
I didn't die 'cause I loved you; I didn't die for your sin,
But Jesus Christ did and he would do it again.

Sometimes you may think that God doesn't care,
But you should know that God is always there
He loves you when you're sick, he loves you when you're poor,
And every day God loves you a little bit more.

It's not too late, you still have time
But only because God's mercy is all divine.
He has given you time, and wants to forgive your sin,
But first of all you must love and trust him.

—Scott Kensey, age 16
RA at First Church, Sharon
Laurel



© 1988 R. Peterson

Map quiz

By Ralph Peterson

Can you name the numbered areas? Fill in the first letters of the answers by each number:

1. The Grand Canyon lies in the northern part of this state, and much of the western part is desert.
2. This New England state is the easternmost state in the country. It is famous for its lobsters.
3. This Great Lake forms the eastern shore of Michigan and its waters touch Ohio to the south.
4. This is the smallest state. It was here that the Baptists built their first churches and religious freedom was introduced.
5. This state is famous for its potatoes.
6. The gold rush of 1849 took place in this state.
7. This state lies to the east of Mississippi. Its capital is Montgomery. Now read the letters in the blanks downward. They should spell "AMERICA."

Answers:

1. Arizona 2. Maine 3. Erie 4. Rhode Island 5. Idaho 6. California 7. Alabama

Who wrote it?

Match the Bible quotation with the man who wrote it:

Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

1. David (Psalm 23:4)

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

2. Luke (Luke 2:19)

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil.

3. Matthew (Matthew 7:7)

Answer
1-A
2-V
3-M

Pen Pal Club

Anyone, ages 6 through 12, who wishes to meet a Pen Pal through the Baptist Record may do that by sending name, address, age, and name of church. Names will be listed monthly on the Children's Page.

Write me!

Kristy Mitchell
Rt. 1, Box 127-G,
Pleasanton, MS 39466
Age 9
Flat Top Unity Baptist Church
I like to sing and dance.

Kristen Palmertree
4 Highland Square,
Clinton, MS 39056
Age 9
Morrison Heights Baptist Church
I like to swim.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, May 12, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Devotional

Parents and children

By Frank H. Thomas, Jr.

No discussion of the Christian family could proceed very far without some mention of the relationship between parents and their children. This necessarily involves two different directions of relationships. The first direction is that of parents toward their children. The second is the relationship of children toward their parents. This week, let us have a look at the direction of parents toward their children.

These are days in which unprecedented numbers of cases of child abuse and neglect are being reported. Child abuse and neglect are tragedies which happen not just somewhere else in major cities in our country, but they happen also here in Mississippi. God has given our children to us for the purpose of raising them to become mature, responsible adults. How are we to make that possible in our homes?

The biblical word for that task, according to the King James Version, is nurture. In Ephesians 6:4, fathers are encouraged not to provoke their children to wrath but to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Nurture is a parental quality which takes into account the well-being and the needs of children. This includes all of the needs of children when they are smaller. A human infant is as helpless as any helpless person and more helpless than most other kinds of living animal infants.

Nurture is not negotiable if we are to raise children successfully. Without nurture, our children will be impoverished and neglected. The needs for nurture include the basic needs for food, shelter, clothing, and for companionship of a family. In the companionship of a Christian family, parents must teach children how to make relationships. They must teach children about the meaning of life in this world, and they must teach the children spiritual truths. Another word for nurture may be discipline and/or instruction. Nurture for children is to a large degree teaching.

The Bible is very clear in Deuteronomy 6 about the need for parents to teach their children the things of the Lord in the morning, in the evening, and at any and every other time of the day. Our responsibility to teach our children the things of the Lord and how to live in his world is not a one-time assignment. It is a continuous assignment which lasts well into adulthood. Adult children often need the teaching and the nurture of their parents.

So parents, we get off on the wrong foot with our children when we provoke them to wrath, abuse them, injure them, or neglect them. Let us be true to the spirit and the letter of the scripture when we spend time with our children, nurture them, care for them, love them with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and teach them the unsearchable riches of our Lord by word and by deed. When our children are strong, healthy, and happy, then we can smile, knowing that we have done our job as God would have it done.

Frank H. Thomas Jr. is pastor, Alta Woods, Jackson.



Thomas

Every day begins and ends with decisions. What will I wear to work? What will I eat for breakfast? Which job will I tackle first? What time will I go to bed? Often I hesitate, even over small choices. (I probably worry W.D. with asking every morning, "Does this dress look better, or this one?") But I do prefer to make up my mind quickly and go ahead. Then if I've made the wrong choice, I'll try to do better next time.

Some decisions are harder than the little everyday ones. Such a one I faced last November. Joan Peterson called me from Pensacola to say she had been invited to go with a World Literature Crusade Mission team to Southeast Asia. She felt definitely God was directing her to go, and that he had impressed upon her to invite me also. The purpose would be to witness through the spoken and printed word. Since Joan spends more time in prayer than practically anyone I know, I usually listen when she has something to say. But this time I protested:

"We just went to most of those places two years ago. People will think I'm out of my mind."

"Yes, but God must have something else for us to do there now."

"You know that when W.D. was so ill last year I said I would not go so far away from him again."

"Ask him what he thinks about this trip." (I did and he immediately encouraged me to do whatever I felt the Lord wanted me to do.)

But I had more reasons for not going. "I don't have the money."

"If God wants you to go, he will provide a way. He will show you how you can manage. Just pray about it."

"Well, I know Mama worries when I fly. I really think I shouldn't cause her that extra concern."

"I think you can feel better about the safety of your loved ones and yourself if you are obedient, than if you are disobedient to God," Joan said.

I did pray, and searched my Bible for direction. I kept remembering a verse from Isaiah 55: "My Word . . . shall accomplish and I want it to, and prosper everywhere I send it." Yet I hesitated. Maybe the "I-like-to-travel" part of me was quoting that. However, I could not ignore instructions in my Living Bible: "When you need to make a decision, read James 3." In that chapter, a few lines stood out, as if in bold type: "If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you. . . . But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you. . . . If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer."

Some people are skeptical of letting a Bible fall open at random, to find there God's solution to a problem. (One writer called that "biblical roulette.") I was not so sure that was the proper way either. Yet how would I find God's answer in his Word? Well, right here before me, in James 1, was a challenge: If I didn't believe I was going to get the answer, then I had better not even ask! This time I prayed, "Lord, if you will, tell me through your Word, in exact words, what you want

me to do. And show me the way to find your message."

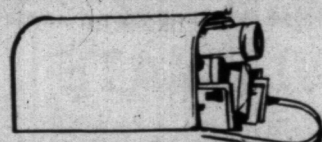
Immediately I picked up the Sunday School quarterly next to the Bible and decided to study the next Sunday's lesson, about Abraham. The first verse that met my eye was Genesis 12:1 (NIV). It might as well have had neon lights around it, for God's command to Abraham had become his command to me: "Leave your country, your people . . . and go to the land that I will show you."

The following Sunday, when Alice Smith was teaching that lesson, she asked, "Is there something God wants you to do? Will you be obedient, as was Abraham?" She was saying that to everyone, but it was like a dart shot at me.

Nothing could I do but say yes, though it bothered me dreadfully to have to spend that much money for a two-week trip. Then a chapel speaker at the Baptist Building Bobby Williamson, pastor, Park Place Church, said the right words at the right time: "How much does it cost to send a missionary? How much does it cost to keep a missionary on the field? Does it matter? If only one soul is brought to Christ as a result of that missionary's efforts, is that not worth any price? Who can place monetary value on one soul?"

And that is how I decided to make a trip of more than 35,000 miles in January. (I've been writing about it off and on since then.) Would not James' words be helpful in making other decisions also? Each day of the

(Continued on page 9)



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used. Withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Join in prayer

Editor:

Much has been written and said in past days about Dr. Lewis Drummond becoming president of Southeastern Seminary.

I had the privilege of studying under Dr. Drummond at Southern Seminary. He was not only a scholar who is a godly man, he was also a friend to the students. Dr. Drummond instilled in me a deep love for the Word of God and a compassion for lost souls.

I am thankful Dr. Drummond was selected to fill the vacancy at Southeastern Seminary. I know he will serve well in that office, not for any political agenda or for personal gain, but for the glory of God. That is the kind of man he is.

I ask Mississippi Baptists to join with me in prayer for Mr. Drummond, Southeastern Seminary's administration, faculty, and student body.

I believe great days lie ahead for Southeastern as God leads through

Dr. Drummond. Southern Baptists will find in him integrity and conviction, and the students and faculty will find a godly friend.

Mickey Dalrymple, pastor
Fairview Church
Columbus

Holmesville centennial

Editor:

Holmesville Church, McComb, is holding its centennial celebration on July 24. If any of the former pastors of the church are in the area, or if anyone has any information as to where we could contact them, please let us hear from you. We want to honor all former pastors, and invite them, as well as all former members, to join in with us in our celebration. Thanks.

Centennial Committee
Holmesville Baptist Church
McComb, Miss. 39648
Tel. 601-684-3084 (pastor)

Crowley centennial

Editor:

In conjunction with the centennial celebration of the First Baptist Church of Crowley, Louisiana, a Centennial History/Pictorial Director is being published.

Former members of our church who are in your state might be interested in purchasing one of these books.

If they are, they should send a request to the First Baptist Church, 228 East 4th Street, Crowley, LA 70526 with a check in the amount of \$8 by June 5th. These will be available by December 15th.

Joanna A. Pruitt
Co-chairman
Centennial Steering
Committee

Ray of hope

Editor:

I would like to tell you how much I enjoyed reading the article on "Dashed hope for blind daughter opens door for other children."

I also was a mother of a three-months premature little girl, which left her totally blind. Both retinas were detached; and Dr. Steve Charles

was her doctor, too. Shelley was almost four months old when we learned that she was blind.

When my husband and I learned that Shelley was blind, we were told by the first doctor we went to, "She is blind, she is your daughter. Nothing can be done to help her. You will have to accept it, and there is no one who can do any surgery to help her." So we went back to our pediatrician, and he told us not to take one doctor's word. He sent us to see Dr. Charles in Memphis.

I know with prayers, God's will, and the five surgeries that Dr. Charles has done on Shelley, she will one day be able to see. She is seeing a little now. But this type of surgery can take years for the sight to develop.

Thank you for letting others know about this ray of hope.

Ann Franklin
Florence

Providing the truth

Editor:

This letter is in response to Bert Breland's accusations toward the Southern Baptist Advocate that appeared in the April 21 issue of the Baptist Record. I believe it is rather

amazing that the same accusations toward the Advocate may be made toward the SBC Today (a publication for the liberal cause). These include: setting the tone for the Southern Baptist Convention, playing on people's fears, provoking anger, promoting an individual for the presidency of the SBC, operating in violation of the letter and spirit of the Peace Committee's recommendations, a smoke screen of concern, fueling fires of conflict, and promoting fear among Southern Baptists.

As a Southern Baptist pastor, I am glad to receive the Advocate. It is a source that provides the truth regarding the issues facing Southern Baptists. I have not yet received the vital information on such issues from the SBC Today or the Baptist Record.

Todd Bowen
Belden Baptist Church
Belen

Modern man's ability to laugh seems very easy, as most anything seems to please him as long as it's NEW, OLD, DIFFERENT, UNUSUAL, or almost ANYTHING. — Tex McPherson, Dallas, Texas.

Names in the news



Grady Sheffield was honored for having completed forty years as a deacon in Raymond Church, Raymond. He has served many times as chairman and for the past ten years as deacon family ministry coordinator.

Pictured are Sam Mason, pastor; Grady and Elva Sheffield, Thad Owens, chairman of deacons.



Morris Tullos completed 50 years of continuous service as church clerk at First Church, Morton, on March 20.

He was recognized in the morning worship service and presented a Certificate of Appreciation.

Pictured from left are Mrs. Morris (Gladys) Tullos, Tullos, and Charles Moody, pastor.

N. F. Greer will retire May 15, after 20 years service as director of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion for the State Board of Missions for the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Greer previously was an associate in the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and was pastor of churches in Poplarville, Morton, and Quitman.

He was graduated from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Beth, have two grown children: Kim and Mark.

The Greers have moved to Elmore County, Ala., where he will serve as pastor of Santuck Church.

Kreole Avenue Church, Moss Point, has ordained two new deacons. They are Cecil E. George and Lee O. Monk Jr. The ordination service was held on Sunday evening, January 10.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Charles L. Tyre resigned as president of Bluefield College, a Baptist school in Bluefield, Va., April 29, effective immediately.

Paul Griffin Jones II has been elected to a two year term as president of the Mississippi Council on Family Relations during its recent annual meeting.

Jones is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The Mississippi Council on Family Relations is a professional and educational organization composed of family life professionals and is affiliated with the National Council on Family Relations.

Jones was also honored May 2 with a certificate of appreciation from the City of Biloxi "in recognition of outstanding contributions to the quality of life in our community," according to the certificate, which was signed by Mayor Gerald Blessy and the city council members.

Mrs. Bonnie Ashley ("Aunt" Bonnie) was honored by the ladies of Providence Church, Cleveland, on her 81st birthday, April 27, with a party in fellowship hall.

Churches adopt annuity plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the April 7 issue of the Baptist Record: Copiah: Bethel; George: Shady Grove; Hinds-Madison: North Jackson and Trace Ridge; Jackson: Parkway; Jeff Davis: Old Hebron; Jones: Fairfield; Lamar: FBC Hattiesburg; Lauderdale: Fifteenth Avenue; Lawrence: Arm and Faith; Lebanon: Maybank and South 28th Avenue; Neshoba: Neshoba and Salem; Pearl River: New Palestine; Pike: FBC McComb; Simpson: Gum Springs; Union County: Oak Hill; and Yazoo: Concord.

WMU centennial to be televised

The ACTS Satellite Network will provide live coverage from Richmond, Va., of the "Centennial Celebration," May 14, 1988 at 12:30-3 p.m. central time.

"Centennial Celebration" will celebrate the 100th birthday of the Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary organization to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Highlights of the celebration will be an address by Woman's Missionary Union President, Marjorie McCullough, "Remember Your Leaders," a dramatic presentation depicting the work of the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention, and an official representatives parade.

Annuity funding rate decreasing

DALLAS — Effective Aug. 1, the annuity funding rate for retirement plans administered by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board will decrease from 9 to 8.5 percent. The annuity funding rate is the rate a retiree's annuity will be credited throughout his or her life.

Persons participating in Annuity Board retirement plans must retire by June 30 to get the 9 percent rate.

Members who are eligible for retirement may request retirement applications by calling the Board's toll free number 1-800-262-0511. Applications may also be secured from the Baptist state convention or agency business office. Retirement applications need to be at the Board in June.

The rate will be decreased due to lower market rates.

Revival dates

Pilgrim Rest, Crystal Springs: May 19-22; John G. McCall, evangelist; 11 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. nightly; G. P. Bufkin, pastor.

Lone Oak, West Point: May 15-19; Sunday services, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Mike Warren, evangelist; Tim Loden, pastor; Lone Oak has added four by letter during the month of April.

West Poplarville, Hwy. 26 West, Poplarville: May 16-20; Jerry Smith, pastor, La Belle Haven, Memphis, evangelist; services, 7 p.m. each night.

Lynn Ray Road, Petal: May 16-20; Tommy Childress, Snow Springs, Adairsville, Ga., evangelist; The Florida Boys in concert, May 15, 7 p.m.; Emmett Boone and Bill Partridge are the pastors.

Union, Rt. 4, Forest: May 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Milner, pastor, Forest, evangelist; Tom Fox, Steele.

Deerbrook, Highway 338 East, Brooksville: May 16-18; services, 7:30 each night; Bill Vaughn, missionary to Latin America, visiting evangelist; Mrs. Margaret McElhenney, Columbus, musician, D. R. McElhenney, Columbus, song leader; Homer Ramage, pastor.

First, Glendale, Hattiesburg: May 15-21; homecoming, May 15, services, Bible study, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., dinner after service, fruit of Glendales ministry, 1:30 p.m., worship, 7 p.m.; May 16-21, 7 p.m. nightly; Cliff Estes, evangelist; Dallas Rayburn, song leader; Billy Skinner, pastor.

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Carey Trustees approve changes

(Continued from page 3)

formerly BSU director and chaplain. Noonkester said he would hire another person as BSU director with Smith's duties falling primarily in the counseling area.

Also demoted was Bekke Ray from dean of women to hostess and recruiter of dorm and commuting students.

Trustees approved a position of director of student activities to be filled by Aug. 1.

Noonkester told the Baptist Record that the moves put him "in a very difficult position, but I do what I have to do. We have shifted and terminated some administrative people. This has been vindicated by the board."

Trustees heard a report from Noonkester and from Bob Pearce, an administrator at Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans which houses

Carey's School of Nursing. Trustees, who are not covered by liability insurance, had been threatened by lawsuit by the students at the school who had failed a required course. Additionally, Joan McConnell, dean of the nursing program, and most of the faculty had resigned "in protest over the college's gross lack of attention to national accreditation standards for the School of Nursing," according to McConnell in a letter to the Hattiesburg American.

Noonkester introduced to the trustees Barbara Johnson a new nursing dean he had hired and noted several of the former faculty will be returning next year. Also, the student suit threats had apparently dissolved with the development of a special course which was taught in Laurel and which all the students passed.

Pearce, who noted that only five out

of 50 dormitory beds were filled at the nursing school, said that the contract between Carey and Southern Baptist Hospital would be renegotiated for the first time since 1977. He said the hospital would no longer be a "passive, benevolent landlord." He also said the percentage of Baptist students in the program is "small."

Concerning accreditation, Barbara Johnson said the library in New Orleans and on the other two campuses is a problem and that accreditation is necessary for graduates to take their board exams. Noonkester said "this board certainly intends to do everything required to maintain at least accreditation."

Concerning finances, Noonkester reported to the Baptist Record after the February closed door meeting of trustees that Carey needed \$300,000 placed into cash flow by the end of June and he assigned various school areas the responsibility to raise the money. He had told trustees the amount needed was \$596,000 and that he was borrowing approximately half of that amount from local banks.

During the open portion of the trustee meeting last week Noonkester said that the cash flow picture was better than he had been told — that the auditors had made a mistake in their predictions by simply doubling fall tuition income and failing to consider about \$450,000 in summer school income — and that an unexpected \$67,000 was coming in from Pell grants.

Noonkester promised trustees he would build no more buildings while he was president of the college and that he would attempt to raise \$1 million in capital funds to pay for building debts. He also said the school was having to write off \$150,000 in bad debts at one third per year, recommending substantial downpayments from students at registration time.

Also, Joe Riley, the new controller, reported that \$385,000 had been transferred from the school's general fund to the building debt. Noonkester said that accounts payable were about \$150,000 better than at the last audit.

Scholarship at MC will honor "Miss Ed"

By Norman Gough



Miss Edwina Robinson, retired executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union of Mississippi, is special in the lives of many Mississippians. Her Christian commitment to missions education has promoted great endeavors across Mississippi and the nation.

Friends of "Miss Ed" have joined together to establish a scholarship fund in her honor at Mississippi College. The scholarship will benefit needy junior or senior female students who are preparing for Baptist missionary work, either with the Home Mission Board or the Foreign Mission Board.

The annual award will come from an endowment fund established to recognize her untiring interest in missions and desire to assist those entering mission work. Anyone interested in contributing to this endowment may do so by sending their gift to The Edwina Robinson Scholarship Fund, Mississippi College, P. O. Box 4005, Clinton, MS 39058.

It was in 1933 that Miss Robinson began her work in mission organizations, serving as young people's secretary for the Mississippi WMU. Under her leadership, camping programs for Girl's Auxiliary, Royal Ambassadors, and Young Women's Associations were begun.

Her dream of a centrally located meeting site became a reality as Camp Garaywa, Clinton, was dedicated in 1947.

In 1944, Miss Robinson was selected

the third executive secretary of the Mississippi WMU and remained in that position until retirement in 1971. She continues to work part-time in the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission office located in the Leland Speed Library at Mississippi College.

A native of Magee, she finished as the salutatorian of her class in that south Mississippi community. She enrolled at Blue Mountain College and was graduated with a degree in music. She taught for a year before attending the WMU Training School in Louisville, Ky.

Members of a committee who helped to establish this scholarship were Sue Tatum, Yazoo City; Mrs. W. E. Hannah, Clinton; Ethel McKeithen, Jackson; Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Gilmore, Jackson; Mrs. Margaret May, Jackson; and Mrs. Rachel Pyron, Jackson, chairman.

"I was surprised and delighted when they told me," said Miss Robinson. "My heart is young people studying for missions, so you can imagine I am thrilled to know that is what the scholarship is for."

Norman Gough is director, Office of Public Relations, Mississippi College.

WMU, SBC Centennial reached on "grand scale"

(Continued from page 3)

The final opportunity to contribute to the WMU "Centennial Thank Offering" will be given on Saturday morning. The offering was established to help retire the debt on the WMU national headquarters building in Birmingham, Ala., and to provide a way to express thanksgiving for missions leaders and organizations.

The Saturday afternoon session will feature official representatives from associational WMU organizations across the country. The session will be aired live over Baptist Telecommunication Network and ACTS Network from 2-4 p.m. (EDT). A taped review of Friday evening's activities and the Saturday morning session will

precede the live broadcast. It will air from 1:30-2 p.m. (EDT).

Announcements of the first Second Century Fund grant recipients will be made during the Saturday afternoon session. The Second Century Fund is an endowment program established for the development of women's work for missions around the world.

Other activities include a Friday afternoon "Celebration in the Park," which will have a country-fair atmosphere complete with a quilt-judging contest, old-fashioned picnic supper, strolling musicians, a fashion show, mimes and clowns. Participants are encouraged to wear period costumes to the park, as well as throughout the entire celebration.

Throughout the day Friday, participants are encouraged to visit the old First Baptist Church for a re-enactment of activities there surrounding the formation of WMU in 1888. Costumed hostesses will also be at the site of the Broad Street Methodist Church, the building in which the organizational meeting took place.

"Celebration Hall," a historic exhibit depicting WMU's 100-year history, will open at 10 a.m. Friday in Richmond Center. The exhibit is designed for participants to "walk through time," from WMU's early days to the present. Centennial Hall includes 85 exhibits and will be open on Friday and Saturday.

Saturday evening centennial banquets will offer Richmond the opportunity to host its largest sit-down meal. Thirteen sites are accommodating more than 8,000 of the celebration participants.

Richmond city officials are expecting the participants to pour more than \$10 million into the city's economy. One business association representative has called the meeting "a shot in the arm" for the city.

Satellite parking areas will be provided by several Richmond Baptist churches. Information about the satellite parking and shuttle services can be obtained at registration, which opens at 10 a.m. Friday. For anyone arriving early, a tour and information desk will be open in Richmond Center on Thursday evening.

Jones BSU commissions volunteers

On April 17, the Baptist Student Union of Jones County Junior College recognized its students involved in missions projects in a special commissioning service.

A crowd numbering 85, which included family and friends, showed support by pledging their prayers for the students.

Three will serve as student summer missionaries: Melissa Gatlin in Wyoming, Rayna Martin in Florida, and Kevin Parker in Nevada. BSU Director John Sumner will take another 10 students to Houston, Tex., for a week's of inner city missions. They are Paul Hendry, Gina Longino, Julia McDonald, Michelle McGuire, Jerry Morris, Melanie Musgrove, Frank Porter, Troy Pounds, and Twyla Temple. Another five students will serve as counselors in Mississippi Baptist youth camps. Misty Moore and Melanie Musgrove will work at Camp Garaywa, and Shane Bounds, Paul Hendry, and Stacey Pickering will work at Central Hills Baptist Retreat.

SBC telecast offered on BTN

NASHVILLE (BP) — Live gavel-to-gavel coverage of the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16, will be televised for the fourth consecutive year on the Baptist Telecommunication Network.

The signal from BTN will be unscrambled to allow churches and individuals who are not BTN subscribers to view the sessions.

The BTN signal is transmitted on Spacenet 1 satellite, channel 21.

As part of the coverage, five-minute "SBC NewScene" updates will be provided at the beginning of each morning and evening session.

The SBC telecast will begin at 8:15 a.m. CDT, June 14. The first day's activities include the SBC president's address, a session on business and resolutions, three times for elections of officers and numerous agency reports.

When you need to make a decision

(Continued from page 7)

journey Joan and I, in our prayer times, would ask God to guide us to the people and places where he wanted us to go, and to give us the wisdom and courage to do what he wanted.

One night, after a day spent largely in riding on planes and going through customs, I was immensely tired and discouraged. I asked, "Lord, did I make a mistake in coming? I don't know anything I've done for you today."

In the middle of that night I awoke and as I lay there, I remember that Abraham had waited a long time for his promised Isaac. And it had been a long time after Abraham's death that some of God's promises to him had come to pass. I felt God was saying to me, "You may never know on earth all the reasons why I wanted you to come here, but my Word will accomplish that to which I sent it." The greatest peace came to me then, and I quickly fell asleep.

The following week, in Chiang-Mai, Thailand, I learned one reason — perhaps the main reason — why God had sent Joan and me to Asia. I'll write about that next week.

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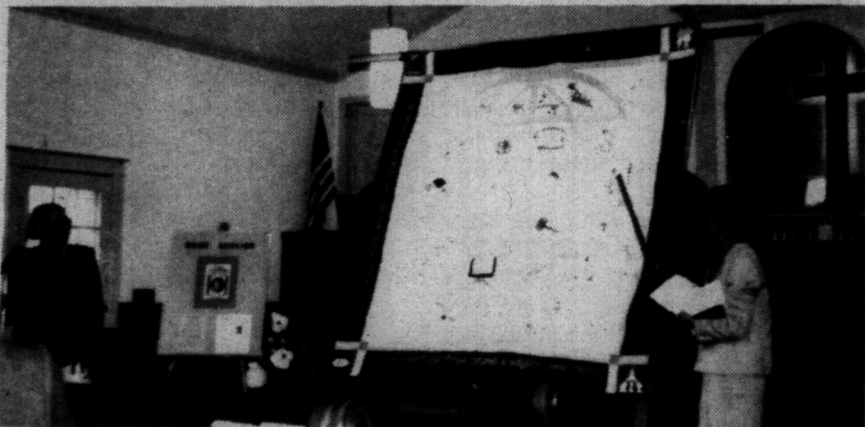
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Just for the Record



Members of the Woman's Missionary Union of Oakland Heights Church, Meridian, are shown working on the centennial quilt they recently completed. The quilt is on display in the education building of the church.



Slayden Church WMU, Marshall Association, presented a centennial quilt, which the members graphed, pieced, set together, and quilted. Presentation, dedication, and study were done Sunday evening, April 10.

This-globe-shaped quilt was done in two months. Co-ordinators were Mrs. Lois Mackey, left, and Mrs. Sallie R. Brewer, right. Thirty persons were involved in making the quilt and presented the history. The pastor is Lee Castle; WMU director is Mrs. Faye Sanders.

High Attendance Day in Sunday School at Pearl Hill Church, Leake Association, was set Feb. 28. The goal was 125.

When the count was taken, 135 were in attendance. Following that day, through the month of March, the average attendance was 116. The enrollment has grown from 79 last November to 112 now.

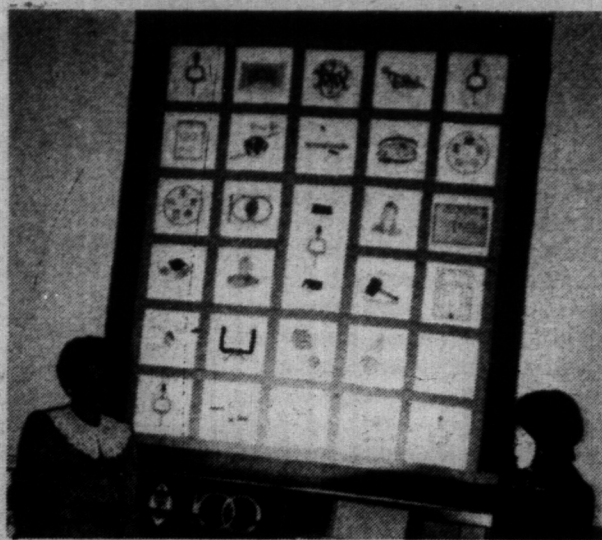
The growth is attributed to several factors, according to Eddie Pilgrim, pastor. "The Growth Spiral was started last November and the people really took interest. Much credit goes also to the dedication of Jimmy Ingram, Sunday School director, and to the fine group of loyal Sunday School teachers." The church has baptized four and has received 13 by letter since January.

The youth of Ephesus Church, Forest, entertained 225 young people and some adults April 17, with a puppet show that was directed by Cindy Haralson and Carol Ann Jones.

Patty and Leroy Callahan, Mrs. Elma Jones and others helped prepare the stage and refreshments.

Immediately following the show Lea Ann Harrison gave her personal testimony.

The "Ephesus Puppeteers" are: Elizabeth Bell, Jody Riser, Mary Ann Myers, Stacey Creel, Rush Callahan, Chad Williams, Kristy Burkes, Billy Walker, Rebecca Bell, Kathy Jo Haralson, Amy Walker, Cindy Callahan, LeReece Crimm, Paige Warren, and Connie Money. Kenneth Jones is pastor.



Lois McDaniel, WMU centennial chairman, East Corinth Church, Corinth, stands beside the display which has been placed in the church sanctuary in celebration of the WMU Centennial. The display includes the centennial quilt, which she made, a mannequin dressed in old-fashioned wearing apparel, an antique trunk, the open Bible, and centennial posters. The celebration will be climaxed on May 15 with "Old Fashioned Day" in the church. Grant Clark is interim pastor.

Kenneth Jones, pastor of Ephesus Church, was recently evangelist for revival at Emmanuel Church in Walnut Grove.

His son, Mark Jones, minister of music and youth at Trinity Church, Carthage, directed the music. Leroy Callahan Sr. is pastor at Emmanuel.

Oakland Church, Corinth, will have a Bible Conference, May 22-25. Services will be at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, and 12 noon and 7 p.m., Mon.-Wed. Ron Dunn, founder of LifeStyle Ministries, Irving, Tex., will be the speaker. Randy Bostick is pastor.

Carey Chapel Church, Red Banks, will have a Bible Conference, May 15-20, at 7 p.m. nightly and 10 a.m., Mon.-Wed. morning seminars. Peter Lord will be the conference leader. Ken Bradley is pastor.

Staff changes

Don Oliver began last February as minister of youth at First Church, Houston.



Oliver

A native of Hattiesburg, Oliver is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

Al Gaspard is pastor.

Wilson Henderson has resigned as minister of music/senior adults at First Church, Columbus, effective May 22. Henderson went to Columbus in 1978. He will move with his family to Dalewood Church, Nashville, Tenn.

George S. Kelly, former pastor of First Church of Lyman in Gulf Coast Association, has retired. He and his wife, Betty, reside at 706 Bayberry Drive, New Carlisle, Ohio 45344, telephone (513) 845-3458.



Kelly

Kelly served as mission pastor of the Unetta Street Missions sponsored by First Church, Hattiesburg.

Mike Edwards is the new minister of music and senior adult leader at Oakhurst Church, North Delta Association. He moved there from the North Oxford Church.

Convention Board staffer Richard Alford resigned at the end of April. Alford has been language missions consultant in the Cooperative Mission Department since 1978.

First, Amory, will celebrate 100th year

First Church, Amory, will celebrate its centennial weekend beginning Saturday, May 14, and continue through Sunday.

Gore Springs WMU celebrates

The Woman's Missionary Union of Gore Springs Church, in observance of the SBC WMU centennial, was in charge of the worship service, March 27. The women presented a history of the group since its organization in 1955 with adult WMU and youth organizations on the program.

Mrs. Jay Stroud portrayed Annie Armstrong, and Mrs. Rita Thompson portrayed Lottie Moon. Chris Floyd was a missionary kid on the program.

Church music director Kim Parker sang the centennial song after a devotional by interim pastor Steve Huber. Also singing was Mrs. Jonie Blakely. Mrs. Earl Gillon is WMU centennial chairman.

A word about quilts

The Baptist Record has this year published many pictures of WMU centennial quilts — made by churches, associations, and individuals. Because of the large number of pictures received and the paper's limited space, pictures of the quilts cannot be used after this week. This week was chosen as the stopping point because the WMU, SBC centennial celebration takes place this weekend in Richmond.

Godfrey, wife found dead

(Continued on page 3)

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. His entire career was spent in Brotherhood work. Last year Grand Canyon recognized his career with an honorary doctorate.

"This is an incalculable loss for the Brotherhood Commission," said Smith. "There was no one as committed to the involvement of men and boys in missions as Norman. He was the embodiment of it. We can fill the position, but we cannot replace him."

Mrs. Godfrey, the former Nancy Pennington, was born in Holbrook, Ariz. She and Godfrey met while students at Grand Canyon. They celebrated their 32nd wedding an-

niversary May 4. Both were active in First Baptist Church of Memphis.

The Godfreys are survived by three children: daughter Cynthia Ann Epley of Chattanooga, Tenn., and sons William Timothy and Richard Norman of Memphis; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at First Baptist Church of Memphis May 9 at 1:30 p.m. A luncheon for out-of-town participants will be served at the Brotherhood Commission offices at 11:30 a.m. Transportation will be provided from the commission to the church.

"To get maximum attention, it's hard to beat a good, big mistake."

— GAZETTE

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CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	Joy of Music Coco Kid	Sgt. Preston Coco Kid	Adventures of The Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	The Bible and Life Sunday School
6	This Life Westbrook Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Davey and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow
7	First Love Wendell Estep Changed Lives	Prime Times Singshine Factory	Singshine Factory	Word of Life Singshine Factory	Prize Song Singshine Factory	Catch the Spirit Singshine Factory	Singshine factory Sgt. Preston of the Yukon
8	ACTS Methodist Hour	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of The Lone Ranger
9	Come Alive Nelson Price	One in The Spot Sgt. Preston	Catch the Spirit Strength for Life Ken Hemphill	This Life Come Alive Nelson Price	Joy of Life Perry Sanders In Concert	Christian Lifestyle Magazine Great Churches of America (II)	Popcorn Theater
10	Catch the Spirit Richmond	Coco Kid Our World	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	26 Men
11	Great Churches of America (I)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Jimmy Houston Outdoor Magazine
12	The Baptist Hour	Prime Times Singshine Theater	Profiles Eggscore Theater	Word of Life Eggscore Theater	Prize Song Eggscore Theater	Catch the Spirit Eggscore Theater	Plant Groom David Wade
1	Sunday Selection	"	"	"	"	"	The Bible and Life Sunday School
2	"	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Davey and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow
3	Love Worth Finding Adrian Rogers	Psychiatry and You Singshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Singshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Singshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Singshine Factory	Family Foundations Singshine Factory	Singshine factory Sgt. Preston of the Yukon
4	Joy Music One in the Spot	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of The Lone Ranger
5	Making Life Count Arthur Calandro The Life	Adventures of The Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Sgt. Preston Coco Kid	Popcorn Theater
6	Highlights ACTS Methodist Hour	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	Country Crossroads
7	Life Together Neal L. Jones	Profiles	Word of Life	Prize Song	Catch the Spirit	Prime Times	In Concert
8	The Baptist Hour Evening Worship	Joy of Music Truth Alive Ron Herrod	Catch the Spirit Joy of Life Perry Sanders	For These Times Robert White	Invitation to Life	Strength for Life Ken Hemphill	Great Churches of America (II)
9	Richard Jackson	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	The Bible and Life Sunday School
10	Joy Music Gloria	Eggscore Theater	Eggscore Theater	The Baptist Hour	Eggscore Theater	Eggscore Theater	Davey and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow
11	This Life Sunday Selection	Adventures of The Lone Ranger	Great Churches of America (I)	This Life In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Sgt. Preston	Singshine factory Sgt. Preston of the Yukon
12	"	26 Men	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of The Lone Ranger
1	Profiles Highlights	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Popcorn Theater
2	ACTS Methodist Hour	Profiles	Word of Life COPE	Prize Song COPE	Catch the Spirit COPE	Prime Times COPE	26 Men
3	Gloria Sunday Selection	Eggscore Theater	Eggscore Theater	Eggscore Theater	Eggscore Theater	Eggscore Theater	Jimmy Houston Outdoor Magazine
4	"	"	"	"	"	"	Plant Groom David Wade

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Jesus exercises authority over disease and nature

By Gayle Alexander
Matthew 8:1-14

The lesson last Sunday closed with the people being amazed at the authority of Christ. The book of Matthew closes with Jesus saying: "All



power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (28:20). Authority is the right to do something and power has to do with the ability to carry it out. To illustrate, one policeman may have the authority to arrest a gang of thugs but he may lack the power to do it. A general may have the power to move against an enemy but may lack the authority. Jesus has both the authority and the power in all heaven and earth. Today's lesson begins to examine that authority more fully.

Jesus cleansed a leper (8:1-4). In the Old Testament this loathsome disease was made symbolic of sin's effect upon man. Noteworthy here is that the leper approached Jesus. Such behavior was strictly forbidden. But more amazing was that Jesus reached out and touched the man. It is difficult to imagine what a touch meant to one who probably had not been

BIBLE BOOK

touched since becoming a leper. The touch was a touch of healing whereby Jesus demonstrated his authority over disease. The leper was instructed to show himself to the priest to fulfill the required sacrifices for being healed and to allow the priest to declare him clean so that he may mix socially.

The healing of the centurion's servant took place at Capernaum. A centurion was the officer in charge of 100 Roman soldiers. The people were amazed at the willingness of Jesus to go personally to the home of the centurion for the healing since homes of Gentiles were unclean for Jews to enter. The protest of the centurion indicated both humility and faith. He felt unworthy that Christ should come to his home. His faith was indicated under a powerful figure of authority. As a minor officer he could issue orders to subordinates and know those orders would be carried out without his presence to guarantee it.

How much more so could Christ, who possessed all authority, give a command and his will be done. In spite of Israel's wealth of revelation, it was a Gentile whose faith in

Christ's authority glowed most brightly. The authority question was the main emphasis of the story. Jesus could heal at a distance. But also, the story reflects Jesus's attitude toward Gentiles. Ministry to an unclean Jew, and an unclean Gentile, helps us see that barriers that divide humanity fall through Christ (Ephesians 2:14). To sit at the table with Abraham is imagery of sharing in the banquet of the kingdom. Many non-Jews will share in that banquet.

Healing and saving are with a view toward service. Peter's mother-in-law was able to fulfill service after having been healed by Christ. At sundown, the Sabbath being passed, many sick and demon-possessed were brought for healing. Jesus demonstrated his authority over the demon world by casting out demons with a word. Jesus spoke and things happened. Jesus dealt with the demon possession as a real phenomenon (note: Ephesians 2:1, 6:12).

The cost of following Jesus is great (8:18-22). Jesus withdrew from the crowds because their main interest was in the miracles. Jesus fled from superficial popularity and compelled those who sought to follow him to consider the cost. Jesus saw in the proposal of the scribe to follow him a failure to estimate fully the rigors

of true discipleship. The scribe did not know then that Jesus was going to the cross. Son of man is introduced here and was synonymous with son of God. It was a term for Messiah but free from political overtones and hence was the favorite term Jesus used to refer to himself. The second would-be disciple asked permission to go and bury his father. Jesus said in essence that he gave all and that he demanded all. Let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead. Loyalty to Christ took precedence over family claims.

The world of nature is also under the constant authority of Christ (8:23-27). The fact of his authority is driven home by the concluding statement: "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey him?" (8:27). Jesus rebuked the disciples for their fear and little faith. Through the centuries Christians have found in this story the authority and power of Christ to deliver from all the storms of life.

The chapter closes with Jesus casting demons out of two men of Gedara. The question of the demons to Jesus: "What have we to do with one another?" is a legitimate question. When Christ comes, demons must go.

Gayle Alexander is pastor, First, Tupelo.

Empowered by the spirit: blessed assurance

By M. Dean Register

A. W. Tozer once remarked that the "idea of the Holy Spirit held by the average church member is so vague as to be nearly non-existent." Tozer's comment may seem harsh, but actually he is telling the truth about an unfortunate and common perception. Too often the Holy Spirit is forgotten or ignored completely and the tragedy of such neglect is manifested by the spiritual anemia that afflicts hundreds of churches.



The New Testament speaks of the Holy Spirit not as a third god or as one third of God, but as God himself indwelling and empowering believers. The Spirit is personal. He takes up residence in a person's life at the moment of salvation and continues to convict, comfort, and convince throughout the life of a Christian.

Romans, chapter 8, is one of the most prominent statements on the Holy Spirit in all of Paul's Epistles. In First Corinthians 12-14, Paul

LIFE AND WORK

explains the use and abuse of the gifts of the Spirit, but in Romans 8, he discusses the work of the Spirit in the daily life of the believer.

Several years ago I was teaching my five-year-old daughter to ride a bicycle. She was struggling to discover the proper balance and time after time she would fall, scrape her knee and promise, as only a little girl can, that she would never get on her bike again. Finally, the day arrived that she rode 20 or 30 feet while I jogged along beside her in case she started to fall. Her eyes sparkled with excitement as she exclaimed, "I'm doing it, Daddy!" Later that evening when things had calmed down, she came into my study, climbed into my lap, and said, "Daddy, it really is scary riding a bicycle, but I'm not afraid as long as you're going with me." My mind raced to thoughts of my heavenly Father and how often, when frightening pressures and difficult situations threatened to defeat me, I had voiced the same feeling, "Lord, I'm not afraid as long as your Spirit is

empowering me and sustaining me when I start to fall."

Paul makes it clear that the Holy Spirit dwells with us as believers (v. 9). Of course, the Spirit does not empower an unsaved person. Before a person is saved, he or she lives "in the flesh" and is dominated by sin. John makes it a point to state that believers are "born of the Spirit" (John 3:8) and that the Spirit's indwelling occurs at the time of regeneration (John 14:17).

Since the Holy Spirit resides in us, we are responsible to live for God (vv. 12-13). Paul explains that we are under obligation to the Spirit by yielding our bodies to that which is morally right and pure. We must exercise our will in cooperation with the Spirit's enablement.

Paul stresses, too, that the Holy Spirit, unites all the redeemed into God's great family (vv. 14-15). The adoption metaphor was easily understood in Roman society. Adoption rested on the loving purpose of a benefactor who acted mercifully to include someone into his family. A legal adoption bestowed all rights and privileges on the beneficiary and its validity was permanent. Paul is saying that as Chris-

tians, the Holy Spirit confirms our position in the family of God and that position is irrevocable.

Another crucial truth about the Holy Spirit's ministry is that he is our compassionate companion in prayer (vv. 26-27). Have you ever been so exhausted that you couldn't think to pray? Have you ever been so burdened for a friend that you didn't know what to say as you prayed for him? Paul must have experienced it too, because he says "the Spirit helps our infirmities for we do not know how to pray as we should."

The Greek word for "help" is composed of three words that linked together mean "together, face-to-face, take hold." The Holy Spirit can take hold of a situation so that together with him we are able to deal with it. If that is not marvelous enough, Paul adds, that the "Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." The Spirit makes clear to the Father what we cannot articulate. It is such a blessed assurance to know that the Holy Spirit empowers us for service and ministers to us when we are side-lined!

M. Dean Register is pastor, First, Gulfport.

Maintain a confident faith; communicate it to others

By Jimmy McGee
Hebrews 10:23; 11:3

Christians enjoy a covenant relationship with God in Christ Jesus. Jesus, who died for us and who was resurrected from the grave, is our only access to the Father. We enter his life by simple but genuine faith. The faith that saves works.



This faith is described in Hebrews 11 as the realization of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Faith is believing in and commitment to the truth of God. In the act of faith the believer is united to — fused together with — eternal God. By this faith we understand that God created the world out of nothing. God is above all and in all and is worthy of our love, trust, and devotion. In this faith we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, we accept Jesus' work on the cross as sufficient for our salvation, and we commit our lives to Jesus in the confidence of present blessing and heavenly hope.

Examples of this faith are numerous. In Hebrews 11, the writer names 16 Old Testament

UNIFORM

faithfuls and underscores that their faith was focused on then yet-to-be-fulfilled promises of God. By faith they obtained God's approval. In their faith, many others endured physical torture and abuse unto death because they expected a better, that is, a heavenly country.

Genuine Christian experience is assumed. In Hebrews 10:22, the writer introduces the first of three "let us" admonitions.

(1) "Let us draw near" to God with a true heart of faith as those who are cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus. A reverent boldness is prompted by Jesus as our high priest.

(2) "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he is faithful that promised" (verse 23). The "confession of our hope" acknowledges a valid encounter with God in salvation and underscores our expectations of heaven. To Confess means to speak the same thing openly. At some point, a public confession of Christ has been made. The admonition is to hold fast without wavering. Wavering suggests doubt, disillusionment, and a slackened commitment.

Jesus is faithful to God's promise. He does not change his mind. He can be counted upon to be

true to himself and to those who believe on him. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). As he is faithful, so ought believers to be.

(3) "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works" (verse 24). Real Christians are expected to love and to do good works. Jesus said "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another . . . By this shall all men know that you are my disciples . . ." (John 13:34-35). "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). To love and to do good works is here assumed. Christians must be sensitive to one another in the church family so as to arouse and excite to good actions.

It is at this point the writer insists that Christians are not to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (verse 25). This is plain talk about church attendance and participation. To worship God, to engage in meaningful Bible study, and to be a significant partner in the church, the body of Christ, is of vital importance to every Christian. As much as to find nurture and help for ourselves, faithful participation in the church family is important for

the sake of encouraging and supporting other sin our pilgrimage with God.

If personal Bible study and self development is all one is interested in, then excellent Bible study tapes are available for convenient listening. Today, many earnest Bible students as well as nominal Christians are casting a stumbling block in the path of their own families and the church family by "forsaking the assembling of themselves together." It is a sin to forsake God's church and to influence others to do so. Go back to church.

Wilful sin after receiving the knowledge of truth raises a serious question about the genuineness of salvation. There is no sacrifice for sins other than the blood of Jesus. If this is not effective in changing one's life, there is no hope.

So "Cast not away your confidence, which has great recompense of reward" (verse 35). Do not lose heart, yield to weariness, and give up before the finish. Be patient and endure so that after you do the will of God you will receive the promise. God's will is that we believe and that we keep on keeping on. The just shall live by faith that is demonstrated in faithfulness. To draw back is to raise the alarming question, "Can that faith save him?" (James 2:14).

Jimmy McGee is pastor, First, Grenada.

Baptist Record



The new building and sign for Sylvarena Church, east of Raleigh on Highway 18, is shown above.

Sylvarena dedicates building

Sylvarena Church in Smith Association on May 1 dedicated a new building and observed homecoming. Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was the speaker for the dedication service at the morning worship hour.

Lunch was served in the church's gymnasium, and the homecoming service was in the afternoon. Five former pastors spoke during this service, and an ensemble from First Church, Jackson, sang four selections under the direction of Larry Black, minister of music.

Robert Jackson, pastor of Sylvarena, was the master of ceremonies during the homecoming service.

The new facilities were completed at a cost of \$400,000, which included furnishings and paving. During the time of construction, the church increased by one-half of one percent its gifts to the Cooperative Program, associational missions, and the Children's Village. It also pledged \$9,000 to the Mississippi Mission, endowment campaign for Mississippi Baptists' college and the Children's Village.

The former pastors who spoke were W. E. Greene, Hueston Atkins, Bobby Hood, Ron Jordan, and William Ferrell.

Special music, in addition to the First Church, Jackson, ensemble, was presented by Sue Bush and Teresa Hyman at the afternoon service. Former minister of music Dwayne Chapman spoke briefly during the afternoon service. Brad and Tammy Jones sang during the morning service.



Larry Black directs an ensemble from First Church, Jackson, during the Sylvarena Church building dedication and homecoming services.

Dot Pray, keyboard specialist with the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Department, accompanied the First Church ensemble.

The music director at Sylvarena, who directed the Sylvarena choir and the congregational singing, is Philip Price. Annie Ainsworth is the organist, and Sheri Brewer and Pam Waldrup are the pianists.

The Sylvarena choir presented special music during the afternoon service.

Committee chairmen during the planning, building, and dedication periods were Kenneth James, building; Joseph Houston, capital funds; Elmo Burge, prayer; Alton Ishee, program; Bill James, dedication day; Steve Flynt, arrangements; and Mack Sullivan, long range planning.



Robert Jackson is pastor of Sylvarena Church.

Homecomings

Wayside, Scobey: May 15; memorial homecoming; 10:30 a.m., music by The Messengers Quartet; worship service, 11 a.m., led by David Briscoe, New Palestine, Picayune; noon, music program and dinner; May 14, fish fry, 6 p.m.

Mississippi Baptist activities

May 16-22 Associational Emphasis Week (HMB Emphasis)
May 17 Associational Officers Interpretation Meeting; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (PD)
May 20-21 Adult Campcraft Training; Central Hills Retreat; 6 p.m., 20th-21 p.m., 21st (BRO)



Powerline for teens

"It's intimidating to be one who's different"

QUESTION

My problem is that my family lives in a neighborhood where most of the people are a different race from us. We don't really mind this because we believe there is good and bad in everyone. Still, it is a little intimidating to be the one who is "different." Sometimes people call us names or say threatening things. We hesitate to stand up for our rights sometimes because we're afraid of what the neighbors might do. We try not to provoke anybody. Mainly we just keep to ourselves. Is there anything we can do to improve the situation?

ANSWER

Your letter demonstrates very clearly that even though we have made some progress in the area of human rights, we still have a long way to go on the American dream of equality and justice for all.

One thing you can do is to work to maintain your closeness and openness with your family. Have regular family conferences in

which you talk about your feelings and frustrations. Each of you can give important support and encouragement to the others.

Second, seek out persons who share some of your family's interests and your approach to life. Friendships which cut across the racial lines are not easy to develop and maintain. But participating together in some common interest, such as sports, a community project, church activities, or a holiday celebration can help break down some of the barriers.

Check to see if there are any groups which are working to bring about greater understanding and harmony, such as a neighborhood improvement association or a social service organization. If so, join it; if not, start one. A local minister or the city councilman for your district might help.

We encourage you to stand up for your rights and not allow yourselves to be intimidated or victimized by unfair or harmful actions. But seek peaceful solutions to these incidents by going through the proper channels to deal with them. Perhaps if you can open up some lines of communication and understanding the unpleasant incidents will decrease and you can all begin to feel comfortable together.

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Historical Commission adopts peace response

NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention approved the employment of a full-time archivist for its central depository and archives, adopted a response to the SBC Peace Committee and adopted a 1988-1989 record budget of \$619,296 in their annual meeting April 25.

Convention-elected members of the commission approved the job description and qualifications for the first full-time archivist for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives and authorized Executive Director Lynn E. May Jr., to fill the position, effective Oct. 1.

By a vote of 26-2, with one abstention, commissioners approved the agency's response to the SBC Peace Committee. They discussed and approved without change the response recommended by the commission's administrative committee. The response reaffirms the commission's commitment to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement and "to a high view of Scripture as given by the inspiration of God." It "affirms its support of all ten of the recommendations of the Peace Committee as adopted by the SBC and pledges itself to work for reconciliation throughout the convention."

Commissioner Paul E. Brown, president of Hannibal-LaGrange Col-

lege in Hannibal, Mo., moved to amend the response by adding, "The Commission also affirms the whole Bible as being not errant in any area of reality," but the amendment was defeated 25-3 with one abstention.

Baptist Record

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